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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN
FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM,
DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT
RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS
STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 8 December 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica, Guatemala and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a joint statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua and the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Guatemala, signed in San José on 28 November 1997 (see annex).

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We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 45, 58, 60, 104, 152 and 157, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. A. MARTINI HERRERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Guatemala to the
United Nations
Chairman pro tempore of
the Central American
Integration System

(Signed) F. BERROCAL SOTO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Costa Rica to the
United Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint statement

On 28 November 1997, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua, and the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Guatemala met in San José with a view to strengthening and developing cooperation and political dialogue in a multilateral and regional framework.

The Russian Federation, Central America and the Dominican Republic reiterated their firm commitment to democracy, their readiness to ensure respect for and protect human rights, and their intention to continue to abide strictly by the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law as the indispensable basis for building lasting peace and developing international cooperation. They also expressed their support for a new, more democratic and just world order, and noted the growing geopolitical and economic importance of the countries represented at the meeting in contemporary international relations.

The participants in the meeting attached great importance to issues relating to the reform of the United Nations in the interests of all countries and to the improvement of the effectiveness of its activities, and declared their firm intention to strengthen contacts within the Organization and in other international forums.

The participants in the meeting expressed their readiness to strengthen cooperation among their countries with a view to combating illicit drug-trafficking and drug consumption and related criminal activities, the manufacture of and illegal traffic in firearms and explosives, and terrorism in all its aspects. These crimes pose a serious threat to mankind.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation stressed the importance that his country attached to Central America and the Dominican Republic in the context of the Russian Federation's Latin American policy, and expressed his support for the efforts of the countries of the subregion to achieve the objectives of the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development. He noted that the positive changes in the subregion, in particular the development of integration process and the new concept of democratic security, are creating favourable conditions for the development of Central America.

For their part, the Ministers and Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Central America and of the Dominican Republic declared their support for the profound democratic changes taking place in the Russian Federation, noting in particular the Russian Government's efforts to carry out economic and social reforms.

During the meeting, the current state of, and prospects for, relations between the Russian Federation, Central America and the Dominican Republic were

considered, and the participants welcomed the progress that had recently been made, in particular the special interest these countries had shown in broadening economic cooperation in the areas of science, technology and tourism, as well as other areas. They noted the many opportunities for strengthening and developing such ties at the government and private sector levels.

With a view to encouraging investments, trade and exchanges in the fields of politics, economy, culture, science and sport, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Ministers and Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Central America and the Dominican Republic agreed to establish a mechanism to promote dialogue and consultation.

The sides expressed their gratitude to the Government of Costa Rica for taking the initiative to hold this meeting and for the hospitality that they received during the meeting.

Signed in San José on 28 November 1997.

(Signed) Yevgeny M. PRIMAKOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation

(Signed) Fernando NARANJO VILLALOBOS
Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Worship of Costa Rica

(Signed) Delmer URBIZO PANTING
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Honduras

(Signed) Emilio ALVAREZ MONTALVÁN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Nicaragua

(Signed) Luis Arturo ZALVIDAR
Deputy Minister for Foreign
Affairs of El Salvador

(Signed) Gabriel AGULLERA
Deputy Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Guatemala

(Signed) Guido D'ALESSANDRO
Deputy Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the Dominican
Republic